WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A method for classifying blocks of data comprising the steps of:

        capturing a block of non-textual data using a recording device for which settings for data-capture attributes are indicative of characteristics of said non-textual data;

        linking meta-data with said block of non-textual data, said meta-data corresponding to at least one said data-capture attribute during said capture by said recording device; and

        performing automated processing to assign description to contents of said block, including utilizing said meta-data in determining said description.

2.   The method of claim 1 wherein said step of capturing includes recording at least one of an image file by an image-capture device and audio file by an audio recorder.

3.   The method of claim 1 wherein said step of linking includes obtaining exposure information that identifies an exposure setting of said recording device.

4.   The method of claim 1 wherein said step of capturing further includes configuring said block as a file of non-textual data in a digital format and wherein said step of linking includes forming a tag to said file, said tag being indicative of a plurality of exposure time, automatic gain, film speed, shutter speed, white balance, aperture/lens index, focusing index, and flash/no flash operation.

5.   The method of claim 1 further including a step of transmitting said block of said non-textual data and said meta-data from said recording device to a computer for performing said automated processing.

6.   The method of claim 1 wherein said automated processing includes analyzing said non-textual data and said meta-data to identify content-based information and manipulating said content-based information to derive said description.

7.   The method of claim 6 wherein said step of analyzing includes applying digital signal processing (DSP) to said non-textual data.

8.   The method of claim 1 wherein said step of performing said automated processing includes assigning a semantic expression to said block of non-textual data for use as at least one descriptor for one of organizing said blocks of data and matching a query during a search for said block of non-textual data.

9.   A system for classifying subject data comprising:

a recording device for capturing non-textual subject data and for recording meta-data, said meta-data being specific to an operational mode of said recording device during capturing of said non-textual subject data; and

a processor configured to implement a classification technique utilizing both of said non-textual subject data and said meta-data for identifying at least one classifier, said classifier being representative of an attribute of said subject data.

10.   The system of claim 9 wherein said recording device is a digital camera.

11.   The system of claim 9 wherein said operational mode of said recording device is based on a state as determined by at least one of exposure time, auto gain setting, film speed, shutter speed, white balance, aperture/lens index, focusing distance, and flash/no flash operation.

1   12.   The system of claim 9 wherein said classification technique is a
2   sequential progression of decision making comprising a plurality of
3   classification nodes, at least some of said classification nodes including
4   algorithms for determining which of a plurality of alternative next classification
5   nodes is to be encountered in said sequential progression of decision making.

1   13.   The system of claim 9 wherein said classification technique is a neural
2   network having an input stage, an output stage and at least one decision-
3   making stage, said decision-making stage comprising a plurality of
4   classification nodes, at least some of said classification nodes configured to
5   receive a plurality of weighted inputs from other classification nodes within
6   said decision-making stage and from said input stage for generating an output
7   as a basis for identifying classifiers.

1   14.   A method of categorizing files of non-textual data comprising the steps
2   of:
3   establishing an evaluation system for decision making, including
4   using automated processing techniques to define a plurality of algorithms,
5   said algorithms utilizing both of content-based data and meta-data, said
6   content-based data corresponding to content information of a file of said non-
7   textual data and said meta-data corresponding to data-capturing settings of a
8   data-capturing device during capture of said file of non-textual data;
9   capturing a file of non-textual subject data; and
10   processing said file of non-textual subject data through said
11   evaluation system for decision making to selectively identify a plurality of
12   classifiers associated with said file of non-textual subject data.

1   15.   The method of claim 14 wherein said step of establishing includes a
2   learning procedure in which said content-based data is extracted from each of
3   a plurality of learning images and said meta-data is identified for each said
4   learning image, said meta-data for each said learning image being indicative
5   of operational conditions of said data-capturing device during capture of said
6   learning image.

1   16.   The method of claim 15 further comprising a step of generating a
2   plurality of learning classifiers that are descriptive of said learning images,
3   said step of generating including applying content-based analysis for said
4   content-based data and meta-data analysis for said meta-data.